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CHINA CROP ENVIRONMENT BRIEF: 1977

SUPPLEMENT

GC CEB 77-003
1 August 1977

China: Preliminary Crop Damage

Assessment

25X1D

Widespread, heavy rainfall, [REDACTED] during the last part of June and the first part of July has severely damaged summer (fall harvested) crops in the North China provinces of Honan, Shantung, Hopeh, and Shansi (See attached map). In the areas observed the crops -- primarily corn, millet, kaoliang, soybean, and tubers -- on as much as 25 to 30 percent of the fall harvest acreage have been lost or damaged. These four provinces account for nearly a third of the national acreage in these crops.

In addition to damaging the growing crop, excessive moisture conditions are likely to increase spoilage in the harvested winter grains spread out to dry. Considerable manpower is required to turn the wheat frequently to prevent excessive heat and sprouting, and under this demanding situation labor resources will be unduly strained. Grain quality, in spite of considerable effort, will probably be reduced.

The high water conditions, flooded fields, and damaged crops are the result of reported heavy precipitation during the last part of June and the first part of July. East central Shansi, southern Hopeh, western Shantung, northwestern Anhwei, northwestern Kiangsu, and southern Honan received well above average precipitation between 21 June and 20 July 1977. Parts of central Shansi, southern Hopeh, and southeastern Honan received in excess of 260 mm (10 inches) of precipitation during this period -- some eight times the normal amount. Many areas in the affected provinces received more than the average total June and July monthly precipitation between 21 June and 10 July 1977. High reservoir levels and standing water [REDACTED] in early 25X1D July in northern Shantung Province, inland from the Po Hai (Gulf of Chih-li) and along the course of the Yellow River. Furthermore, water levels in central Shansi Province between late June and early July rose to levels considerably higher than for the same period in 1976.

25X1A

NOTE: This paper was produced by the Office of Geographic and Cartographic Research. Comments and questions may be directed to [REDACTED] Code 143, extension 3748.

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The precipitation, associated with a quasi-stationary front and thunderstorms that have oscillated over the area since mid-June, has not been confirmed by human sources or reported in the Chinese press. This silence suggests that the Chinese consider the situation serious and very sensitive. This would not be the first time that the Chinese have remained silent when faced with severe weather extremes.

Warning Notice

Sensitive Intelligence Sources and Methods Involved
(WNINTEL)

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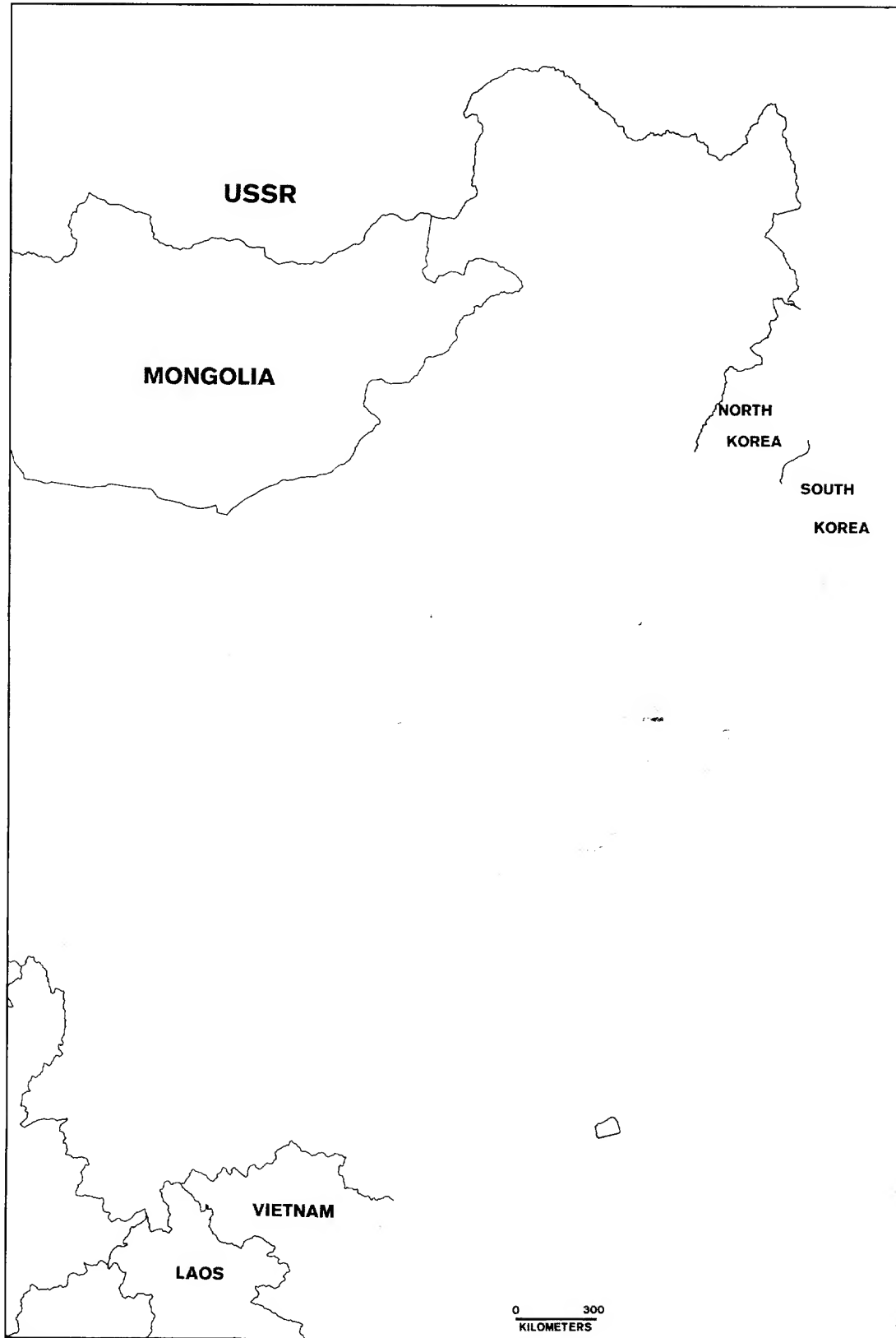
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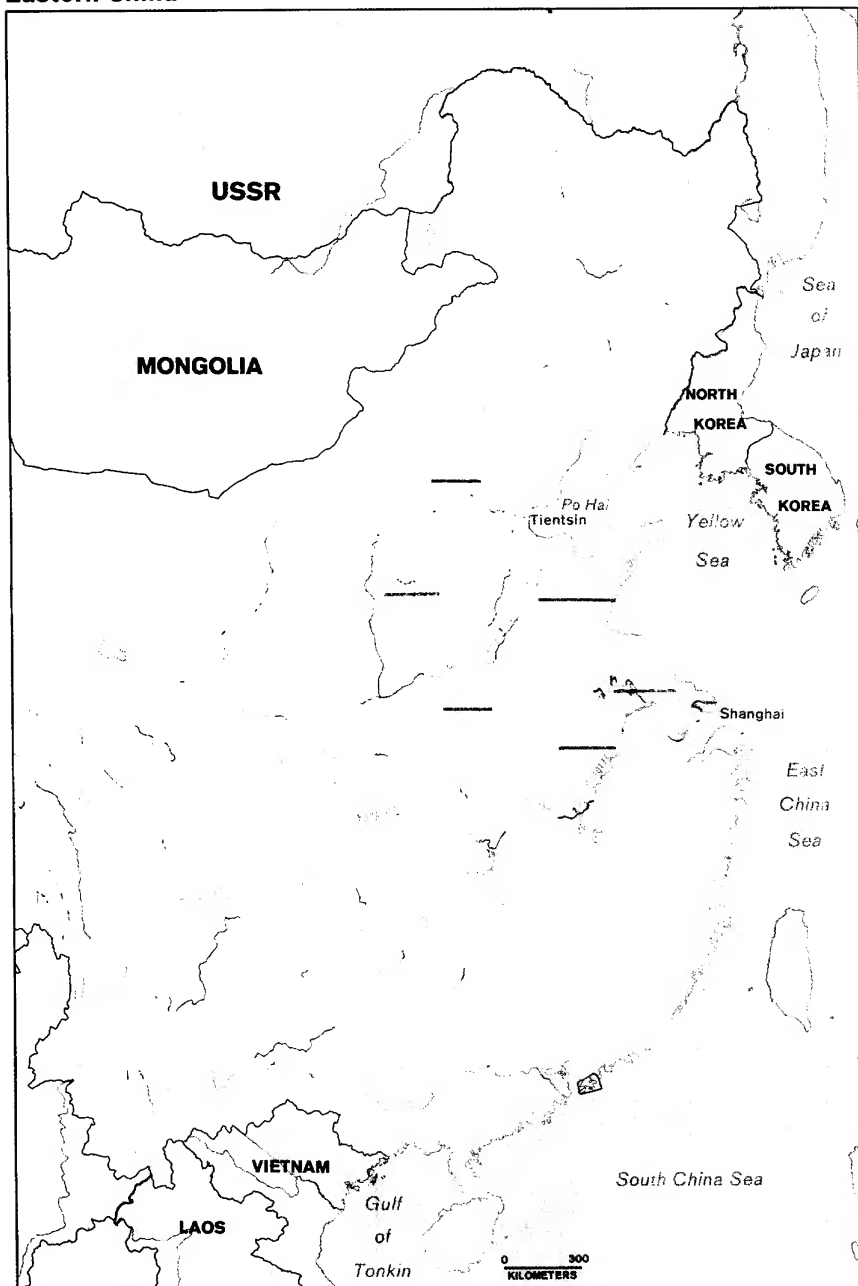
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